

Charlotte Lehmann was a caring mother and grandmother, a dedicated teacher and an active contributor to her community. As she excitedly approached her retirement, she received a life changing and life limiting diagnosis. While her three sons Erik, Craig & Keith provided and coordinated care for her in her home, there came a point where additional assistance was needed to manage her symptoms and keep her comfortable.

After a visit to tour Chapman House, the Lehmann's were relieved to see that the suites within Chapman House were nothing like a hospital or long term care environment. Chapman House provided their family ample space to gather around Charlotte, the ability to bring in her own things from home, her own foods, and a place where she could watch her grandchildren play. Most of all coming to Chapman House allowed Erik, Craig & Keith the ability to be sons again rather than primary caregivers.

Charlotte's primary concern when she came to hospice was that she would have no visitors, but she was delighted to find that the comfortable setting at Chapman House made is easy for so many of her friends, colleagues and even some past students to visit her.

"The space was warm and welcome. We made use of the extra bedroom many times and visiting at all hours was so convenient." shared Keith. On her first night in hospice care Charlotte's family were nervous about her getting settled and climatized in her new space. That night Keith slept near by in the adjoining room. He awoke suddenly when he heard Charlottes voice, he jumped to her aid only to find 3 hospice staff were already at her bedside. "You really don't know the value of this kind of care. It is beyond that of any gift. It's priceless."

During her life Charlotte was an active painter of folk art and in the early 90's created some of the very first displays that were part of The Owen Sound Festival of Northern Lights.

Continued from page 1

Each year when the lights turned on, Charlotte would walk the path through the lights with her dog by her side. Knowing how much she loved the lights, her sons decided to honour their mothers life with a contribution to the festival. Charlotte was an advocate for welcoming new Canadians into her community, so it felt like a perfect fit to create a symbol of peace to memorialize her. The piece was designed by a local artist and friend of the family who created it out of driftwood from local beaches where Charlotte walked.

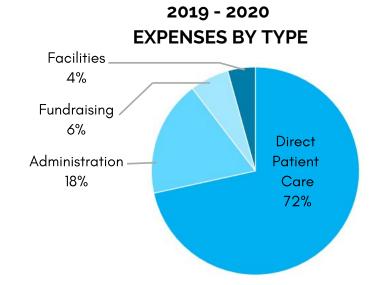
Once the piece was installed the Lehmann brothers coordinated with the staff at Chapman House to arrange a surprise outing. One last visit to see the lights as a family and to show Charlotte the symbol of the legacy she was leaving for her family and her community. Taking advantage of the outing the boys also stopped by Sabriti's restaurant for some of Charlotte's favorite samosas.

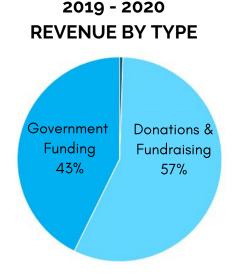


Erik recalls his memory of that day. "It was a big day, she was very excited and this was only possible because she was in hospice care. Chapman House is a really special place. We'd like to send a heartfelt thank you to those that provided our family this experience to be together. The care is unparalleled to anything in the health care system. She received the absolute best support and care at all times."

Charlotte died peacefully at Chapman House on December 14th, 2019 but her memory will live on in the lives of everyone she touched and those that remember her as they walk the Festival of Northern Lights.

2019 - 2020 STATISTICS 156 Residents Provided with Compassionate Comfort Care 26 Bereavement Cafes 4 Celebration of Life Services Donated Chapman's Icecream & Popsicles Served











ADVANCED CARE PLANNING

As the clinical coordinator at Chapman House part of my role includes the assessment and intake of clients into hospice care. I have the privilege of being the first contact with people enquiring about a loved one coming to hospice. My conversations with clients and their families may be urgent or hopefully preplanned and more comfortable. The level of anxiety amongst the client and family can vary depending on the situation. However, as a rule, I have noticed that the family with some form of end of life planning seems to have less anxiety and stress. Experience and education have led me to be very straightforward in my conversations with families. We do not have the luxury of putting crucial conversations on hold.

There really is no comfortable time to talk about death or our wishes for end of life care. What if I were to ask you "Who would speak for you if you couldn't speak for yourself?" and "Does this person know your wishes for end of life care?" Could you answer yes? Do these two questions get your attention?

Whether one is young, old, healthy, or ill, one is not exempt from the possibility of dying tomorrow. Advanced care planning is a process of reflection and communication. It is a time for one to reflect on ones values and wishes, and to let people know what kind of health and personal care you would want in the future if you were unable to speak for yourself. Best of all, it is within your control.

A Substitute Decision Maker (or SDM) is an individual chosen to make medical decisions on behalf of another person if they are unable to do so for themselves. It is an important piece of advanced care planning. You may also consider having a Power Of Attorney for Personal Care (POA). A POA is chosen by you. Your POA does not have to be a family member and there is no cost to assign a POA.

At Chapman House we will help families get their affairs in order. We will help with setting up a POA, wills and assist with funeral planning. However, in our experience, these steps are much easier, and stress is less when these plans are made ahead of time.

Be willing, open, and honest when a loved one tries to address their wishes. There is no easy time to do this and it takes a lot of courage to have these discussions. Based on my experience NOW is the time to have these conversations. I have worked in hospice care for 7.5 years and I have never met a family that was disappointed that their loved one had an end of life plan in place.



Ann Elford
Clinical Coordinator

Advanced Care Planning Workbook

We would like to
encourage and assist you
with starting a
conversation with your
loved ones about
Advanced Care Planning.

To request your free copy of the Ontario Advanced Care Planning Workbook please visit:

GreyBruceHospice.com /ACP

or call 519-370-7239

THE ONLY CONSTANT IS CHANGE

Along with the rest of the world the global pandemic has forced our organization to adapt and change how we continue to operate:

- our bereavement support programs have had to move to online and telephone platforms
- our quarterly celebration of life ceremony is now virtual
- our need for volunteers and the duties required of them continues to evolve
- we continue to see a decrease in memorial donations as our society adjusts to the changes the pandemic has created for funerals and celebration of life services
- the 2021 Grey Bruce Hike for Hospice will be a virtual event for the first time
- we are seeing a wonderful increase in the number of community led fundraisers which help us keep fundraising expenses lower

We cannot predict what this next year will bring. We ask that you follow us on social media and check in with our website regularly for the latest on bereavement support services, volunteer programs, fundraising events and how we are continuing to serve our community through this continuously changing time.











CONNECT WITH US



GBHOSPICE









Contact us at:

info@greybrucehospice.com or 519-370-7239

Deliver or Mail Donations to:

1725 10th Street East Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0G5

Please make cheques payable to Residential Hospice of Grey Bruce

Support Your Community Hospice

Your donation to the Residential Hospice Grey Bruce gives the gift of compassionate comfort care to people in our communities and support to their loved ones during the end of life journey.

Your continued support will allow our elite team of care professionals to continue to provide free of charge hospice care to Grey Bruce residents and their families. Please consider making a monthly or one time online donation by visiting us at Chapman House or finding us online at:

GREYBRUCEHOSPICE.COM





